

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Craig R. White

Serial No.: 09/727,094

Filed: November 30, 2000

Docket No.: 10003980-1

Title: PRINT PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 14-17 and 38 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-13 and 18-37 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a print job of a user, the system comprising:

a print processing system registry configured to have at least one of print processing services of a plurality of print processing providers registered therewith, the print processing services including a storage capability of a print job storage provider to store a data file for the print job, a processing capability of a print job processing provider to process the data file for the print job, and a printing capability of a print job print provider to print the print job, and a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider to deliver a completed print job to the user registered therewith; and

a print job service provider adapted to receive a print request and the data file for the print job from the user and distribute the print job the print request and the data file to at least one of the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider, and the print job delivery provider for the user based on the print request.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the print processing system registry and the print job service provider are configured to communicate with the at least one of the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider, and the print job delivery provider via a communication network, wherein the print processing system registry is adapted to receive the at least one of the storage capability, the processing capability, and the printing capability, and the delivery capability via the communication network, and wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job the print request and the data file to the at least one of the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider, and the print job delivery provider via the communication network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the print job service provider is adapted to submit the print request and the data file for the print job to the print processing

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system registry for the user, wherein the print processing system registry is adapted to compare the print request for the print job with the at least one of the storage capability, the processing capability, and the printing capability, and the delivery capability and determine whether the at least one of which of the storage capability, the processing capability, and the printing capability, and the delivery capability is necessary for the print job, and wherein the print job service provider is adapted to automatically distribute, without interaction by the user, the print request and the data file for the print job to at least one of the print job storage provider if the storage capability is necessary for the print job, the print job processing provider if the processing capability is necessary for the print job, and the print job print provider if the printing capability is necessary for the print job, and the print job delivery provider if the delivery capability is necessary for the print job.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the print job service provider is configured to communicate with the user via a communication network, and wherein the print job service provider is adapted to receive the print request and the data file for the print job from the user via the communication network.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the storage capability of the print job storage provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job to the print job storage provider, and wherein the print job storage provider is adapted to store the print job, the storage capability of the print job storage provider including at least one of a storage term, a storage cost, and a storage provider identification a storage provider identification and at least one of a storage term and a storage cost.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the processing capability of the print job processing provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job to the print job processing provider, and wherein the print job processing provider is adapted to process the print job, the processing capability of the print job processing provider including a processing provider identification and at least one of a print job conversion

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capability, a print job translation capability, a print job enhancement capability, and a processing cost, and a processing provider identification.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the printing capability of the print job print provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job to the print job print provider, and wherein the print job print provider is adapted to print the print job, the printing capability of the print job print provider including a print provider identification and at least one of a file format compatibility, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, and a printing cost, and a print provider identification.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider registered therewith, and wherein the print job delivery provider is adapted to deliver the completed print job to the user, the delivery capability of the print job delivery provider including at least one of a delivery option, a delivery cost, and a delivery provider identification~~ a delivery provider identification and at least one of a delivery option and a delivery cost.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a print job of a user, the system comprising:

a print processing system registry configured to have at least one of print processing services of a plurality of print processing providers registered therewith, the print processing services including a printing capability of a print job print provider to print the print job, a processing capability of a print job processing provider to process a data file for the print job, and a storage capability of a print job storage provider to store the data file for the print job, and a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider to deliver a completed print job to the user registered therewith; and

a print job service provider adapted to receive a print request and the data file for the print job from the user and submit the print job the print request and the data file to the print processing system registry.

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wherein the print processing system registry is adapted to determine if ~~the at least one of which of~~ the printing capability, the processing capability, ~~and the storage capability, and the delivery capability~~ is necessary for the print job, and

wherein the print job service provider is adapted to automatically distribute, without interaction by the user, the print request and the data file for the print job to ~~at least one of the~~ print job print provider if the printing capability is necessary for the print job, the print job processing provider if the processing capability is necessary for the print job, and the print job storage provider if the storage capability is necessary for the print job, and the print job delivery provider if the delivery capability is necessary for the print job.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the printing capability of the print job print provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job to the print job print provider, and wherein the print job print provider is adapted to print the print job, the printing capability of the print job print provider including a print provider identification and at least one of a file format compatibility, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, and a printing cost, ~~and a print provider identification.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the processing capability of the print job processing provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print job to the print job processing provider, and wherein the print job processing provider is adapted to process the print job, the processing capability of the print job processing provider including a processing provider identification and at least one of a print job conversion capability, a print job translation capability, a print job enhancement capability, and a processing cost, ~~and a processing provider identification.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have the storage capability of the print job storage provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the print job service provider is adapted to distribute the print

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job to the print job storage provider, and wherein the print job storage provider is adapted to store the print job, the storage capability of the print job storage provider including ~~at least one of a storage term, a storage cost, and a storage provider identification~~ a storage provider identification and at least one of a storage term and a storage cost.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, ~~wherein the print processing system registry is configured to have a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider registered therewith, and wherein the print job delivery provider is adapted to deliver the completed~~ print job to the user, the delivery capability of the print job delivery provider including ~~at least one of a delivery option, a delivery cost, and a delivery provider identification~~ a delivery provider identification and at least one of a delivery option and a delivery cost.

14-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a print job of a user, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a print processing system registry having ~~at least one of print processing services of a plurality of print processing providers registered therewith, the print processing services including~~ a storage capability of a print job storage provider to store a data file for the print job, a processing capability of a print job processing provider to process the data file for the print job, and a printing capability of a print job print provider to print the print job, and a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider to deliver a completed print job to the user registered therewith;

defining a communication network linking a print job service provider and ~~at least one of the print processing providers including the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider, and the print job delivery provider;~~

receiving a print request and the data file for the print job at the print job service provider from the user; and

distributing the print job the print request and the data file to the at least one of the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider,

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and the print job delivery provider for the user via the communication network based on the print request.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~the step of defining the communication network further includes linking the print processing system registry with the at least one of the print job storage provider, the print job processing provider, and the print job print provider, and the print job delivery provider,~~ and further comprising ~~the step of:~~

registering the at least one of the storage capability of the print job storage provider, the processing capability of the print job processing provider, and the printing capability of the print job print provider, and the delivery capability of the print job delivery provider with the print processing system registry via the communication network.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of registering includes registering the storage capability of the print job storage provider with the print processing system registry, including registering at least one of a storage term, a storage cost, and a storage provider identification~~ includes registering a storage provider identification and at least one of a storage term and a storage cost.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of registering includes registering the processing capability of the print job processing provider with the print processing system registry, including~~ includes registering a processing provider identification and at least one of a print job conversion capability, a print job translation capability, a print job enhancement capability, and a processing cost, and a processing provider identification.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of registering includes registering the printing capability of the print job print provider with the print processing system registry, including~~ includes registering a print provider identification and at least one of a file format compatibility, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, and a printing cost, and a print provider identification.

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23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~the step of defining the~~ communication network further includes linking the print job service provider with the print processing system registry, and further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

submitting the print request and the data file for the print job to the print processing system registry for the user via the communication network; and

comparing the print request for the print job with ~~the at least one of the~~ storage capability of the print job storage provider, the processing capability of the print job processing provider, ~~and the~~ printing capability of the print job print provider, and the delivery capability of the print job delivery provider.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~the step of defining the~~ communication network further includes linking the print job service provider with the user, and wherein ~~the step of receiving~~ the print request and the data file for the print job includes receiving ~~the print job~~ the print request and the data file at the print job service provider from the user via the communication network.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein the print processing system registry has the storage capability of the print job storage provider registered therewith,~~ wherein ~~the step of distributing the print job~~ the print request and the data file includes distributing ~~the print job~~ the print request and the data file to the print job storage provider, and further comprising ~~the step of:~~

storing ~~the print job~~ the print request and the data file.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein the print processing system registry has the processing capability of the print job processing provider registered therewith,~~ wherein ~~the step of distributing the print job~~ the print request and the data file includes distributing ~~the print job~~ the print request and the data file to the print job processing provider, and further comprising ~~the step of:~~

processing ~~the print job~~ the data file.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein the print processing system registry has the printing capability of the print job print provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the step of distributing the print job the print request and the data file includes distributing the print job the print request and the data file to the print job print provider, and further comprising the step of:
printing the print job.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 19, ~~wherein the print processing system registry has a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider registered therewith,~~ wherein the step of defining the communication network further includes linking the print processing system registry with the print job delivery provider, and further comprising the step of:
wherein registering the delivery capability of the print job delivery provider with the print processing system registry via the communication network, including registering at least one of a delivery option, a delivery cost, and a delivery provider identification includes registering a delivery provider identification and at least one of a delivery option and a delivery cost.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a print job of a user, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
providing a print processing system registry having print job processing services of a plurality of print processing system providers registered therewith;
defining a communication network linking a print job service provider, the print processing system registry, and the print processing system providers;
receiving a print request and a data file for the print job at the print job service provider from the user;
submitting the print job the print request and the data file via the communication network to the print processing system registry;
determining via the print processing system registry which of the print job processing services are necessary for the print job, including comparing the print job with the print job processing services of the print processing system providers; and

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automatically distributing, without interaction by the user, the print request and the data file for the print job via the communication network to at least one of the print processing system providers which has have the print job processing services necessary for the print job.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the print job processing services of the print processing system providers include storage services of a print job storage provider to store the data file for the print job, processing services of a print job processing provider to process the data file for the print job, print services of a print job print provider to print the print job, and delivery services of a print job delivery provider to deliver a completed print job to the user.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein ~~the step of defining the communication network further includes linking the print processing system registry with the print processing system providers, and further comprising the step of:~~
registering the print job processing services of the print processing system providers with the print processing system registry via the communication network.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~the step of registering includes registering a storage capability of a print job storage provider with the print processing system registry, including registering at least one of a storage term, a storage cost, and a storage provider identification~~ a storage provider identification and at least one of a storage term and a storage cost.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~the step of registering includes registering a processing capability of a print job processing provider with the print processing system registry, including registering a processing provider identification and at least one of a print job conversion capability, a print job translation capability, a print job enhancement capability, and a processing cost, and a processing provider identification.~~

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34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~the step of registering~~ includes registering a printing capability of a print job print provider with the print processing system registry, including registering a print provider identification and at least one of a file format compatibility, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, and a printing cost, and a print provider identification.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein ~~the step of registering~~ includes registering a delivery capability of a print job delivery provider with the print processing system registry, including registering ~~at least one of a delivery option, a delivery cost, and a delivery provider identification~~ a delivery provider identification and at least one of a delivery option and a delivery cost.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein ~~the step of defining the~~ communication network further includes linking the print job service provider with the user, and wherein ~~the step of receiving the print request and the data file for the print job~~ includes receiving the print job the print request and the data file at the print job service provider from the user via the communication network.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein ~~the step of receiving the print job includes receiving a print request for the print job at the print job service provider,~~ including receiving the print request for the print job includes receiving a user identification and at least one of a storage option, a processing option, a file format, a print medium size, a print medium type, a number of copies, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, and a delivery option, and a user identification for the print job.

38. (Cancelled)